

REMARKS

Applicant has carefully reviewed and considered the Final Office Action mailed on March 23, 2007, and the references cited therewith.

No claims are amended, claims 10-14 and 19 are canceled, and no claims are added; as a result, claims 1-9, 15-18, and 20 are now pending in this application.

Claim Objections

Claim 19 was objected to under 37 CFR 1.75(c), as being of improper dependent form for failing to further limit the subject matter of a previous claim. Applicant is required to cancel the claim(s) or amend the claim(s) to place the claim(s) in proper dependent form, or rewrite the claims(s) in independent form. Claim 19, even though depends on Claim 15, fails to further limit the subject matter of claims 15 because claim 15 has included all claimed limitations cited in claim 19.

Applicant has canceled dependent claim 19.

Double Patenting Rejection

Claims 1, 3, 7-8, 15-16, 18-19 were rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claim 5/1 of U.S. Patent No. 6,648,440 in view of claim 2 of U.S. Patent No. 6,648,440 and Hackleman (U.S. Patent No. 5,742,305).

Claims 2, 4-5, 6, 9, 17, 20 were rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claim 5/1 of U.S. Patent No. 6,648,440 in view of claim 2 of U.S. Patent No. 6,648,440 and Hackleman (U.S. Patent No. 5,742,305), as applied to claims 1 and 15 and further in view of Kawase et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,086,272).

In an effort to advance prosecution of the present application, a Terminal Disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c) is enclosed herewith to overcome the nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting rejection to claims 1-9, 15-18, and 20.

Conclusion

Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance and notification to that effect is earnestly requested. The Examiner is invited to telephone Applicants' attorney Gregg W. Wisdom at (360) 212-8052.

At any time during the pendency of this application, please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to the Deposit Account No. 08-2025.

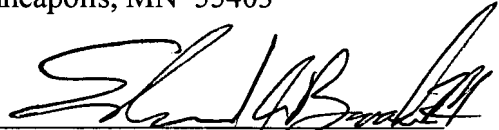
CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR §1.8: The undersigned hereby certifies that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail, in an envelope addressed to: **MS AF** Commissioner for Patents, P.O. BOX 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on this 1st day of May, 2007.

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Respectfully Submitted,
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Date: 5/1/2007